(c) The total production of cotton in the State during the said priod in the State is as under :-

Year	Total production in lakh bales (each bale is 170 Kgs)
1994-95	22.69
1995-96	22.02
1996-97	1.53 (November, 1996)

[Translation]

Monitoring of Prices and Availability of essential Commodities

3637. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken special measures to monitor the prices and availability of essential comodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review these measures form time to time;

(d) if so, the details thereof with observations made on last review;

(e) whether these steps tend to yield desired results;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The prices and availability of 12 very essential commodities monitored regularly. The retail prices are monitored are on a daily basis and wholesale prices on a weekly basis from selected centres all over the country. The commodities monitored are rice, wheat, gram dal, tur dal, sugar, groundnut oil, mustard oi, vanspati, tea (loose), potatoes, onions and salt.

(c) to (g). The prices and availability of essential commodities are regularly reviewed by high level Committees like Special Action Committee of Secretaries on monitoring of prices (SACP) and Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) to initiate appropriate measures. The decisions of these committees are implemented to augment the availability of essential commodities and to control their prices.

Import of Milk

3638. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether free import of milk from (international players) is still continuing;

(b) whether milk is subsidised to the tune of Rs. 8 to 9 which means that importers have been benefited @ 100% subsidy and by zero tax;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

[Translation]

Utilisation of funds

3639. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the assistance given to various States for the development schemes during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received utilisation certificates for the State Governments before sanctioning further assistance to the States for the development of Animal Husbandry and Dairying;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the amount actually utilised by each state;

(d) if not, the reason therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the States which did not spend the amount fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

[English]

Decline in Fertilizers Production

3640. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and profitability of fertilizer units in the public and cooperative sector including the operating profit of these companies had shown a decline during the nine months of the current year;

(b) if so, the overall decline and the units-wise comparative figures of production and profitability during the said period and that in the corresponding period in 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(c) the main reasons for the decline?